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### REMARKS

Claims 1-6 and 9-19 are pending in the application. Claim 1 has been amended by the present amendment. The amendment is fully supported by the application as originally filed (see, e.g., specification at page 31, line 10 to page 34, line 12; steps 103 to 105 of FIG. 4).

As amended, claim 1 recites a pixel defect detector in which output characteristics are obtained for at least three amounts of incident light. An advantage of this feature is that least squares analysis can be used to determine the photoelectric coefficient and the offset output level of the photoelectric transducer. Use of the least squares method is described on page 14 of the specification.

Claim 1 was rejected under 35 USC 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent 4,253,120 to Levine. Claim 2 was rejected under 35 USC 103(a) as being unpatentable over Levine. Claim 3 was rejected under 35 USC 103(a) as being unpatentable over Levine in view of U.S. Patent 6,396,539 to Holler et al. Claim 5 was rejected under 35 USC 103(a) as being unpatentable over Levine in view of U.S. Patent 6,184,529 to Contini. These rejections are respectfully traversed.

Levine does not teach or suggest a pixel defect detector in which output characteristics are obtained for at least three amounts of incident light.

Levine discloses a defect detection means for charge transfer imagers. According to the system of Levine, spurious samples obtained from a defective pixel are corrected by replacement with an interpolated value derived from its neighboring pixels (see column 6, lines 40-44; see also FIGS. 1 and 2).

In the Office Action of 08/24/2005, column 1, lines 54-59 of Levine were cited allegedly for teaching that a calculation section (discrimination means 900 in Levine) obtains output characteristics of a photoelectric transducer for "arbitrary amounts of light" incident on the photoelectric transducer (see Office Action at page 3).

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However, Levine does not teach or suggest the use of at least three amounts of incident light, as recited in claim 1. According to the Applicants' claimed invention, this feature makes possible the calculation of a photoelectric coefficient or an offset output level using the least squares method. Levine does not discuss the calculation of these values.

For at least the reasons discussed above, Levine does not anticipate or otherwise render obvious the Applicants' claimed invention.

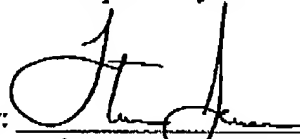
The Heller and Contini references do not remedy the deficiencies of Levine.

It is believed the application is in condition for immediate allowance, which action is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

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